12/24/73

Dear Mr. Whitson,

Your letter of the 19th and the enclosed check came in the mail following my letter to you.

Thank you for both.

This has been what you call it, really more than an "unpleasant situation." And in fairness to Dutton, which inherited it, I will agree that it is "finally settled."

There is one loose end of which you know. I think Dutton's interest may be served by the writing of a letter confirming that the rights have reverted to me.

They have under the contract, as you may recall, because I invoked that provision of the contract about October 5, 1972. For my purposes I do not require this letter because of this provision of the contract, and because David has not complied with the requirement that could keep these rights from reverting.

I think the probably extremely remote possibility of further unpleasantness will be avoided by your confirming this in writing and having the letter in your files.

The original work was much larger. In current writing I have already used two large passages that were edited out. I may use more.

So, I think it will be better if this matter is left clean for both of us. Then there will later be no questions.

Now that this is over, while I presume that you would rather forget about it, if you have any questions I will provide whatever answers you may want. I have been truthful with you and I have not in any way exaggerated.

I regret that this was my introduction to Dutton because under other circumstances we might have had a different relationship. In the course of the work I have been doing I have come into a number of literary properties that require a kind of writing for which I am not suited. I believe several have movie potential. Most, unlike the work on which I spend almost all my time, are non-controversial. In the hands of those skilled in the kinds of writing required I believe these materials hold considerable promise.

For this additional reason I am sorry.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg